



BOTANIC NEWS
SPRING 1987

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Friends continue to liaise with key groups at the Gardens, including the Voluntary Guides, Plant Craft Cottage Group and the Maud Gibson Trust.

As reported in the Winter *Botanic news*, we were pleased to welcome at our Annual General Meeting, May 4, visitors from the Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden, Adelaide.

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney will be visiting Melbourne mid-October and a reception in their honour is scheduled for Friday October 16.

Your Committee considers it important that appropriate linkages be established with other key Gardens throughout Australia and in this regard, was delighted to accept the Minister of Conservation, Forests and Lands' invitation to put forward a nominee to the Victorian Garden State Committee. This Committee is a consultative body that acts as a catalyst to bring individuals and groups together to use plants to improve urban and rural landscapes. Whilst not losing sight of our prime objective, namely "to stimulate further interest in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and National Herbarium and to support and assist them wherever possible", there is a responsibility for all of us to be interested, caring and assist on a broad basis.

Your elected Council now meets every other month, representing a streamlined approach to the management of our affairs as our newly incorporated association continues to expand and grow. Our shop is trading profitably and, as advised, a number of major and smaller projects have been earmarked for financial support from the Friends as 'concrete' evidence of continuing support to our Gardens.

Future activities include our Adelaide and Kangaroo Island springtime excursion, September 20-27; the lecture 'Art and Meaning of Ikebana' October 29; tours of Melbourne and country gardens, September/November and a major function, a 'Preview' of the May Gibbs Exhibition when it comes to the Royal Botanic Gardens in November, ending the year with our Christmas Party on December 10.

Your Council hopes to identify additional outlets offering benefits to members such as those available through Fryer's Nursery, Hawthorn, Idaho Nurseries, East Marvern and the Arts Bookshop, Armadale. It is hoped that such special benefits make your membership worthwhile, together with the knowledge that your membership is contributing in a very meaningful way to the support of our Gardens, and enabling the Friends to follow an active program of activities, meetings and publications. Members are encouraged to bring the Friends to the attention of their acquaintances in order that we might broaden our membership base. Your support represents great encouragement to your elected Council Members, and the many volunteers who run our various project activities.

Frank Phillips
President



MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

FARM COTTAGE GARDENS IN THE KYNETON AREA

Thursday September 17. A bus trip to Kyneton, 'The Daffodil Festival Town and its Country Gardens', leaving the National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra at 8.30 a.m. and returning to the Harbarium by approx. 5.00 p.m.

10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. 'Glen Grove'

A garden of great beauty created by the present owners, Mr and Mrs Ramsay who added water and many trees to create an oasis of tranquility.

Morning tea provided.

11.15 a.m. to 12.00 noon. 'Langley Vale'

Mrs Murray's garden contains many collector's treasures and is a monument to Australia's few internationally important plantsmen/women.

12.10 p.m. - 1.25 p.m. 'Ellerslie'.

Mr and Mrs Miller live in a little patch of heaven. Piper's Creek burbles past the lawns and Spring bloom bursts up the hillsides. Graham Miller is a keen competitor at the Kyneton Daffodil Festival, so expect a dazzling display.

Lunch (your own) on the lawns.

1.55 p.m. - 2.40 p.m. 'Coliban Estate'

This unique interweaving of landscape and dwelling, the home of Mr and Mrs D. James, was conceived in 1957 with the help of the late Edna Walling in her 'all natives' period. A sprinkling of deciduous exotics complements the glorious vista to the lake and surrounding hills.

3.10 p.m. - 3.40 p.m.

Nestled right in historic Kyneton this lovely garden of Miss Barrow and Mrs McCullough is full of surprises, a riotous celebration of nature's joys. One of the prettiest small gardens you could wish to see.

During the foregoing trip you will be offered the opportunity to purchase miniature potted rare bulbs and woodlanders. Proceeds to the 'Friends'.

Jenny Phillips, who provided our delightful garden notes and arranged the foregoing itinerary has our grateful thanks. Jenny says Kyneton weather can be cold and damp at that time of the year and to bring suitable clothing. Please bring your own lunch and tea/coffee also.

Members & Guides	\$17.00
Non-Members	\$18.00

RSVP by September 10. See booking slip enclosed.



ADELAIDE AND KANGAROO ISLAND IN SPRINGTIME

8 days. Sunday September 20 to Sunday September 27.

This trip takes you by plane to Adelaide where you will stay at the Grosvenor Hotel. There will be a guided tour of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, lunch at Yarrabee with the 'Friends', and visits to Grove Hill, Wittunga Botanic Garden, Beechwood and Panmure.

During the five days on Kangaroo Island accommodation will be at the Sorrento Resort Motel, Penneshaw. The Manager, Jack Boyd, assisted by other local authorities, will act as guides around the island.

You will see much native flora and fauna and visit many areas of interest. Transport to Kangaroo Island will be by ferry and by air return.

For further information ring

Lesley Clark 277 3984

DINNER WITH VISITING FRIENDS FROM THE SYDNEY ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne are delighted that the Sydney Friends will be in Melbourne for two to three days in October. Various functions have been arranged including afternoon tea at Government House and guided walks in our lovely Gardens with the Voluntary Guides.

The Melbourne Friends are organising a Dinner at which the Friends of both Gardens can meet.

Mrs Anne Latreille, Editor of The Age 'Gardening' section will be guest speaker. Her subject will be 'Garden Writing Over the Years'.

The Dinner will be held on Friday October 16
7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. at the Kiosk in the Royal Botanic Gardens.
Entry by Gate 'A', corner Anderson St and Alexandra Pde.

Members & Guides	\$20.00
Non-Members	\$23.00

RSVP by October 8. See booking slip enclosed.

On Saturday October 17 members of the Activities and Catering Sub-committees will provide lunch for the Sydney Friends in between their guided walks in the Gardens. The Director and Mrs Sylvia Churchill have graciously made Gardens House available for the lunch.

Volunteers to help prepare the lunch or, indeed to assist with other functions, would be appreciated.

If you are able to help please ring

Eve Brunner	818 5954
Golda Isaac	817 5640

THE ART AND MEANING OF IKEBANA

Thursday October 29 at 11.00 a.m.

Lecture and demonstration by Mrs Beth Higgs at 'Carn Brea', 32 Harcourt Street, Hawthorn.

We are fortunate indeed that we can hold this function in the ballroom of the charming home of John and Jenny Robertson. Beth, who attended the 1986 Ikebana International World Convention in Kyoto, Japan, will review the Convention and demonstrate Ikebana, and will be assisted by some of her associates.

After the lecture and demonstration lunch will be served and, weather permitting, guests will be able to stroll in the lovely and unusual garden.

Members & Guides	\$15.00
Non-Members	\$17.00

RSVP by October 22 on booking form enclosed.

DAY TOUR TO 'GLENARA' AT BULLA

On Tuesday November 10 there will be a day tour to 'Glenara' Bulla, the beautiful bluestone home (1857) and garden of one of our members, Mrs. Ruth Rundle, who has invited us to share her interesting and historic garden. The house and garden are listed by the Historic Buildings Council. Previous owners, Walter Clark and his son, Alister Clark, established the garden.

Take your own car and bring your own lunch and mugs. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please contact Beryl Williams, 877 3879, before November 3 if you require transport or if you have spare seats in your car. It is planned to meet at 'Glenara' at 11.30 a.m. when we shall take leisurely strolls around the property prior to partaking of a well-earned lunch!

Take the Tullamarine Freeway. Just before reaching Tullamarine Airport proceed on to the Sunbury Road for a few kilometres to Glenara Drive on the left.

(Melway map 177 C9). Do not go on to The Calder Highway.

Members & Guides	\$5.00
Non-Members	\$6.00

RSVP by	November 7
Beryl Williams	877 3879.

Numbers limited to 50 People.



PREVIEW COCKTAIL PARTY MAY GIBBS EXHIBITION

Monday November 16 at 5.30 p.m. in the Herbarium Auditorium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra.

Guest Speaker will be Mr Robert Holden, Curator of James Hardie Industries Fine Art Collection

Members & Guides	\$8.00
Non-Members	\$9.00

RSVP	November 12
Agnes Fulton	836 9183
Joan Nesbit	211 8979

The Exhibition will be launched by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Joan Kirner, on the following day and will be open daily until December 20.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR FRIENDS

Thursday December 10 in the Kiosk, Royal Botanic Gardens. Further Details in *Botanic magazine*.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Marilyn McBriar - 23/6/87 - "*Landscapes and Plants of Early Heidelberg*". Informative and enjoyable.

Helen Cohn - 14/7/87 - "*Colonial Scientists*". A most scholarly and interesting talk.

Morning Coffee at Kay's - 23/7/87. A happy and informal social gathering at Kay Fairley's home.

Photographs of the recent Western Districts Gardens Tour and Alice Jeffrey's impressions of the gardens visited added an extra delight.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Annual Subscription to the Friends -

Family Membership \$25.00

Individual \$18.00

Concession (Student, Pensioner & Country) \$12.00

To apply for membership send cheque/money order made out to

'Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.',
addressed to

Membership Secretary, Friends of the Royal Botanic
Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra 3141.
(Tel. 650 9424)

OF INTEREST TO ALL GARDEN LOVERS

Mrs Rosemant Verey, the noted English gardener and author will be visiting Melbourne in October; her visit to Australia is sponsored by the British Council.

A talk "*The English Woman's Garden*" will be held at the Great Hall, National Gallery, 180 St Kilda Rd on Monday October 12 at 7.30 p.m.

The talk is sponsored by the 3LO Gardening Show, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Australian Garden History Society.

Tickets at \$7.00 each (please send a stamped addressed envelope) can be obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society, 38 Hamilton St, Mont Albert 3127.

Mrs Verey will be speaking on the Barbara Horn Show at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday October 1 and on the 3LO Garden Show on October 3 and 10 at 8.00 a.m., and will autograph copies of her recent book *The New English woman's garden* on Thursday October 1 from 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. at the ABC Shop cnr Elizabeth and Bourke Sts.

SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE & OTHER FOLK OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 17 — DECEMBER 20, 1987

The Gum-Nut Babies and Banksia Men are coming to Melbourne. These delights of May Gibbs' imagination will be joined by Peg Maltby's characters for this exhibition in the Herbarium Auditorium. The exhibition features original water colours and pen and ink drawings by these artists. The works are from the James Hardie Library (Sydney) collection and private sources.

May Gibbs first created the Gum-Nut Babies in 1913. Wattle Babies, Gum Blossom Babies, Boronia Babies and Flannel Flower Babies rapidly followed. In 1918 Snugglepot and Cuddlepie and the Wicked Banksia Men marched into national folklore. These characters reflect May Gibbs' close observation of Australia's native flora.

Peg Maltby was a major illustrator of fantasy books for children. Her work reflects her knowledge of Australian, and her native English plants. Her *Fairy book* delighted children of the 1940s.

An 'exhibition' walk is being prepared. The walk will provide an opportunity for a closer look at the plants which inspired the Water Babies, Boronia Babies and the Wicked Banksia Men. To further explore the flora which fascinated May Gibbs, Neville Walsh (Botanist, National Herbarium of Victoria) will speak on these plants, their botany and ecology on Sunday November 22 at 10.00 a.m. The activity will include a private viewing of the exhibition and morning tea will be served. Bookings are essential. Please phone the Herbarium, 650 9424.

The Royal Botanic Gardens is hosting the exhibition with the assistance of the Maud Gibson Trust and the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, whose special responsibility is the Exhibition Shop in the Herbarium Auditorium. A sub-committee of Golda Isaac, Lesley Clark and Philip Ayton is hard at work preparing for this exciting venture. The shop will be staffed by a manager and volunteers. As the entrance to the exhibition is free the financial success of this project depends on the shop's profitability.

Please volunteer to assist in the shop, half a day each week during the exhibition.

Roster times are:

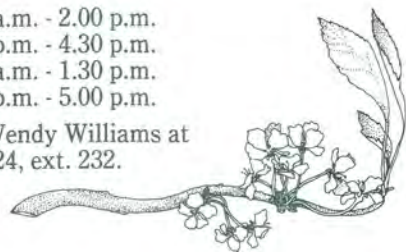
Week days : 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Weekends : 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

To volunteer, ring Wendy Williams at the Gardens, 650 9424, ext. 232.





Cherry

ROTAMAH ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY COURSE

September 4-6 (weekend). The Observatory is offering a course "What Plant is that?" It will provide helpful hints for identifying the major plant families in the field, and the use of plant keys to identify specimens.

It starts with lunch on Friday and finishes with lunch on Sunday. Friends are offered a \$25.00 discount; the \$100.00 (\$75.00 for Friends) fee covers tuition, accommodation and boat transport from the mainland. Contact Isobel Crawford on (051) 56 6398 or write to the Observatory P.O. Box 75, Paynesville, Vic. 3880

ECOFORREST COURSES

The University of New England, Department of Continuing Education has a program of courses including the forthcoming April 1988 course "Identification of Rainforest Plants" to be held at the Lamington Natural History Field Studies Centre, Binna Burra, Lamington National Park. Further details available from the University, Armidale 2351; (067) 73 2788.



SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Fryer's Nursery, 589 Glenterrrie Road, Hawthorn, and 'Idaho' Nurseries, 420 Waverley Road, East Malvern, offer special discounts to Friends on production of their current membership card.

Just a reminder that a 10% discount is available at the Friends' Shop in the Gardens on purchases of \$20.00 and upwards.

SPRING NEWS FROM THE GARDENS

Spring is of course one of the most spectacular times to visit the Gardens: the banks of rhododendrons and azaleas, the various *Prunus* blossoms and the bulbs are always stunning. The trees on the Oak Lawn with their silvergreen tassels of male flowers (catkins) are more subdued in their beauty. Also of interest are the Horsechestnuts with their pink or white flower clusters. There is a specimen of *Aesculus x carnea* at the southern end of the Lillypilly hedge by the glasshouses and in the group half-way up the Tennyson Lawn.

The specimen of *Aesculus x parvia* next to Melba's Golden Poplar on the Central Lawn was planted by the Polish statesman and musician, Paderewski in 1904. Another striking tree is the *Davidia involucre*, Dove of Handkerchief Tree, so called because of the large creamy white bracts that accompany each flower cluster. There is a small specimen on Guerard Island opposite the Kiosk.

Now that the weather is fining up, the Australian Border is undergoing radical changes with the development of an internal pathway system. The new paths will allow better access to individual plant specimens and will give visitors an opportunity to experience the bush 'first hand'. Constructed from honey-coloured granite gravel the paths are being laid in two stages: the first from the Tradesmen's Entrance towards 'E' Gate, the second from the Tradesmen's Entrance running the other way towards 'F' Gate. New plantings along the paths are planned, as are interpretative labels, so it will be next year before the Border is opened up to the public. However it will be well worth the wait for the Australian Border contains a particularly fine collection of rainforest specimens.

Eve Almond
Interpretations Officer

'The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Incorporated has been formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.'